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HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y



'LOVE ALWAYS PROTECTS'

1 Cor. 13:7

Harding graduate remembers Arizona shooting victim

by SARAH KYLE
editor in chief

Almost one month ago, 2004 Harding graduate and photographer Bonnie Rose was enjoying a bittersweet Saturday morning in Tucson with her two sons.

The trio had met Rose's mother and sister at a local diner to remember a life lost; Bonnie's father, who died in 2008 while biking home from work, had always loved the pancakes, she said.

Thirty minutes after she left the restaurant, the Tucson community was shattered as Jared Lee Loughner opened fire at U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' local meet and greet, killing several in attendance and leaving Giffords and others critically wounded.

By the end of the day, Rose would pay tribute to not one life, but six. Among the dead was Dorwan Stoddard, a role model, friend and fellow Mountain Avenue Church of Christ member.

Reports of Stoddard's heroic death on Jan. 8, 2011, circulated the nation for days after the shooting. He had attended the event with his wife, Mavy. When Loughner opened fire, Stoddard dove in front of Mavy, saving her life and losing his own.

Mavy was shot three times and is currently battling severely infected gunshot wounds in her legs and is restricted to using a wheelchair, Rose said.

Rose first met Stoddard, 76, when she moved to Tucson to live with her parents while her husband, Harding graduate Ryan Aherin, was at basic training for the Air Force. In 2010, she returned to Tucson until Aherin completes his tour in Hawaii.

Rose said that since her return to Arizona and Mountain Avenue Church of Christ, where Stoddard and his wife, Mavy, attended, Stoddard was an active part of the church and local community, offering to help Rose fix electrical issues in her house a short time before his death.

"Since I moved back until the tragedy in Tucson, I have heard his name brought up in conversation more often than any other person I know in this area," Rose said. "When I had heard the initial word of his passing, this was a truth that came to mind immediately in dealing with the shock that he was gone. Everyone around me knew Dorwan Stoddard and was impacted by his life."

Stoddard was a man of character and loved until the day he died, Rose said.

"Everyone who knows Dorwan and Mavy will tell you that where one was, the other was right there," Rose said. "What has impacted me was that just in the way Dorwan lived his life a hero to Mavy and everyone he impacted, he died a hero, protecting his wife in the midst of gunfire."

Each victim has a story, Rose said, adding that there are few



TOP: Dorwan and Mavy Stoddard are caught holding hands at a Mountain Avenue Church of Christ event several years ago. The Stoddards had attended Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' local meet and greet when Jared Lee Loughner opened fire on Giffords and the crowd, killing Dorwan and five others. photo by JENNIFER GLIDDEN | Tucson

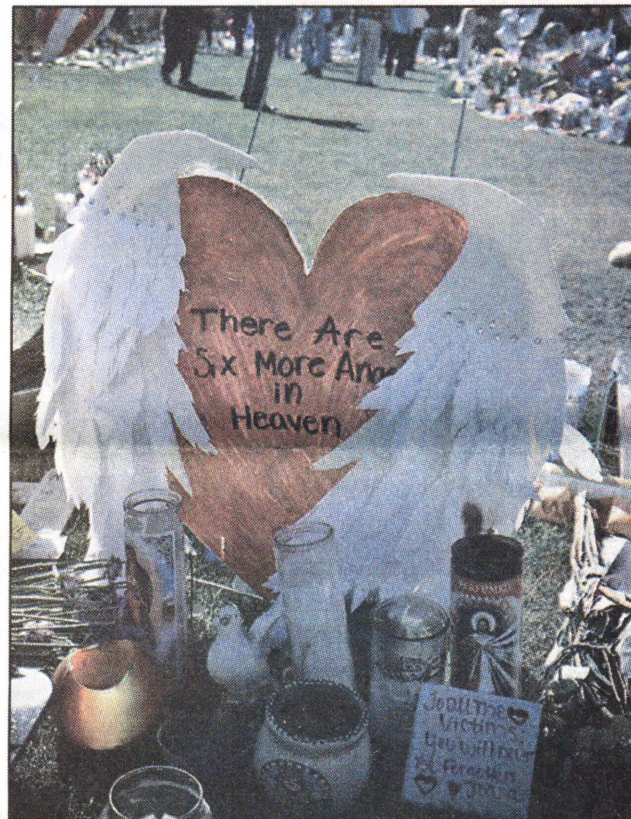
BOTTOM: Memorials set up outside University Medical Center in Tucson, Ariz., in memory of the victims: Dorwan Stoddard, 76; U.S. District Judge John M. Roll, 63; Christina Green, 9; Dorothy Morris, 76; Gabe Zimmerman, 30; Phyllis Schneck, 79. photo by BONNIE ROSE | Tucson

in Tucson who have not been affected by the shooting.

"No one expects something like this to happen in your community," she said.

As time passes, Rose said she hopes to see a renewed Tucson, with citizens inspired and thoughtful of the lives lost and those forever changed.

"My hope is that through the tragedy that people can hear about Dorwan and his life, and in turn go out in their lives and help others around them in a humble servitude," Rose said. "Life is too short, and we should love those around us and show them how much we love them every day."



A new era for textbook sales

How the Internet and local stores affect the Harding bookstore

by GINA CIELO
guest writer

With each new semester, students are presented with the ever-so-popular question: Where should I buy my books?

With a local textbook store making their debut and Internet sites selling books for half price, the decision seemed to get even harder for students this semester.

The Harding Bookstore experienced this competition firsthand, but according to Mel Sansom, Vice President of Finance, the effects were not substantial.

"From what we have seen so far, it hasn't really impacted us much," Sansom said. "The sales are pretty steady with last spring's numbers."

The Harding Bookstore offers many advantages over outside dealers; Students have the ability to simply charge the books straight to their account and it is on campus, making it easy to access, Sansom said.

"I buy my textbooks through the Harding Bookstore because it seems like the easiest thing to do," freshman Alex Ford said. "I think the best thing is not worrying about paying immediately."

We want to do our best and continue to provide excellent services to the students.

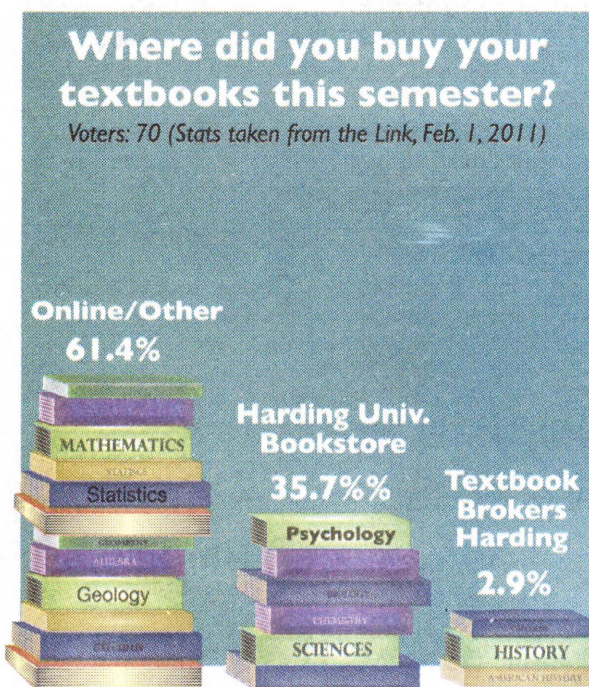
-Mel Sansom
Vice President
of Finance

Sansom said due to the competition, the bookstore is in the process of more closely comparing their prices to those of outside sources, looking at ways to lower costs, and potentially buying books back all semester.

"We want to do our best and continue to provide excellent services to the students," Sansom said.

Textbook Brokers, a new textbook store located in Searcy, made its debut last semester and created immediate competition to the Harding Bookstore as they bought students' books back.

With roots in White County, co-owner of Textbook Brokers Trey McIntosh said Searcy seemed like an ideal



location due to the large student population. He said he plans on the company becoming a permanent fixture here in the Searcy/Harding community.

With more than 70 stores across the country, McIntosh said the bookstore gives them more used titles than any other textbook chain in the country.

"I heard that Textbook Brokers was a cheaper way to get your books and that they would buy them back from me at the end of the year for a better price, so I thought I would give it a try," senior Melissa Piccino said.

Chegg.com, Amazon.com, Half.com and many other textbook sites also entice Harding students not only with their low prices, but also with their fast shipping.

"Since freshman year, I have bought my books online because the prices are incredible," junior Ellen Erwin said. "I have never been dissatisfied with the quality of the books I have bought."

Although most students are done buying textbooks for this semester, it will not be long before they are faced with this decision again.

HU accident victim memorialized

by MONIQUE JACQUES
student writer

A Harding University Physical Resources employee of 21 years fell 12 1/2 feet to his death while working on the Mabee Center addition one month ago.

Teddy Joe Pike, a carpenter and welder, was on a rooftop beam doing a routine heating and air preparation job when he fell to the concrete floor in the presence of his son-in-law, Roger Barger, and two other workers. The accident occurred Tuesday, Jan. 4, but Pike remained on life-support until Wednesday because he was an organ donor.

This is the first on-campus employee death Harding has ever dealt with.

"It was a terrible accident and we certainly feel for the family," President David Burks said. "He had been a valuable employee for Harding for over 20 years. It is just a shock when something like this happens, a terrible loss. We just continue to lift up the family in prayer."

Faculty who attended the memorial service Friday, Jan. 7, took a loaded Harding bus to Quitman, Ark., where the auditorium of Howard General Baptist Church, equipped with extra chairs down the aisles, was full "cheek to jowl," as Director

of Physical Resources Danny DeRamus said, with standing room only in the foyer.

"It was a memorial of his life; it wasn't a tragedy of his death," DeRamus said. "Memorializing who he was and what he stood for. I've got to remember that if I want a service like this I have got to live like Joe did."

An official memorial plaque is in the process of being created for the Physical Resources office. The men who worked with Pike on a regular basis created their own memorial, though, a sheet of metal engraved with his name and welded to the crossbeam from which he fell in the Mabee.

When tragedy strikes, questions of safety arise.

"We're in a dangerous business," DeRamus said.

"Any time something like this happens, safety awareness is heightened," Vice President of Finance Mel Sansom added. "I think that we do have good policies and procedures in place, but they will be looked at strongly and we'll make improvements where needed and communicate them even better."

Because most of the Physical Resources employees have been with Harding for 20 to 40 years, DeRamus said that they have become a family within the larger Harding family.

-SEE PIKE PG. 2A

Students, residents camp for grand opening challenge

by JESS ARDREY
opinions editor

On Jan. 20, the Chick-fil-A of Searcy, Ark., opened its doors to the public for the first time. Many people were excited to go out and be some of the new restaurant's first customers.

However, none were more excited than the faithful 100 who set up camp in the parking lot for 24 hours before the grand opening.

Part of the company's promotional efforts included giving away free chicken sandwiches for a year to 100 lucky patrons who agreed to stay on the premises for a full day.

Campers arrived before the sun to be in line at 6 a.m. The rules were simple: Chick-fil-A would provide the food as long as participants dropped everything for a day to sit in their parking lot.

A few Harding students even showed up at midnight just to secure their spot in line.

"We made sure we were the first ones on the site,"

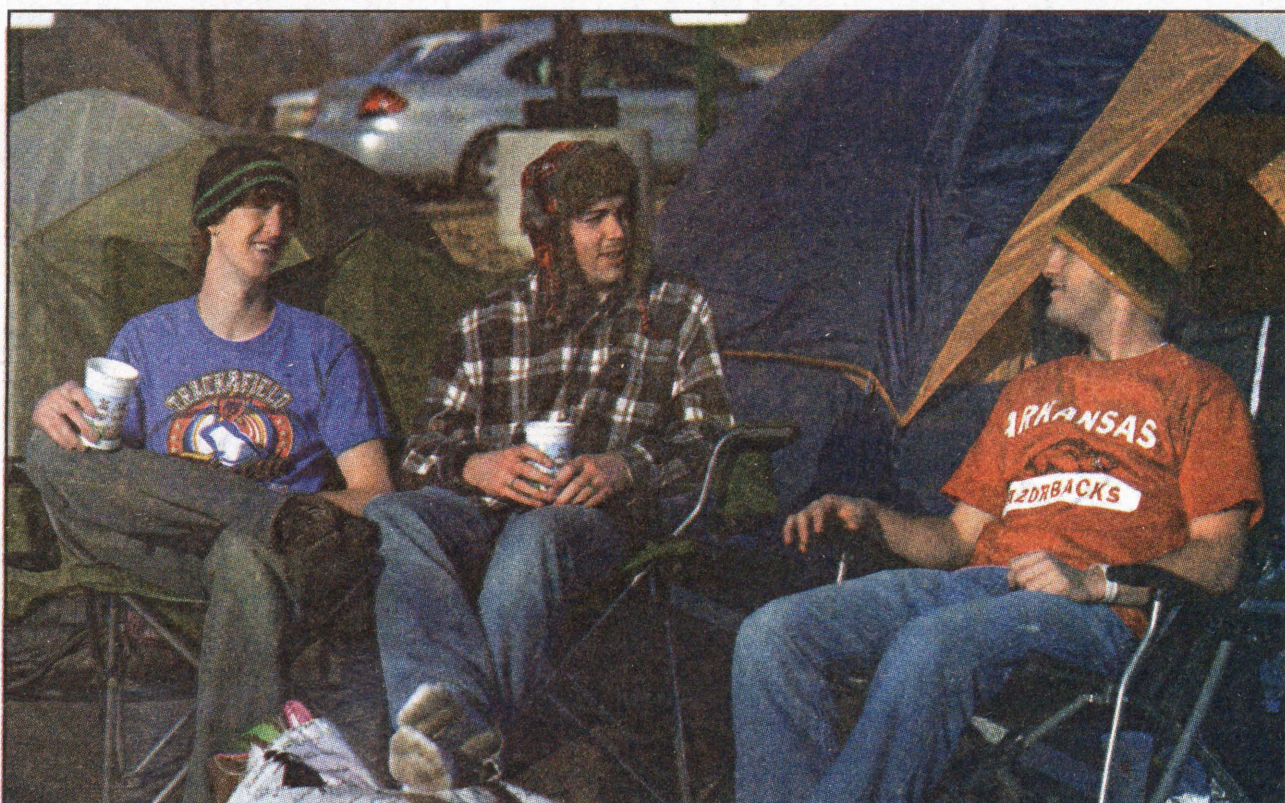


photo by CALEB RUMMEL | The Bison

Junior Chris Pruitt, senior Keith Johnson and junior John Michael Young chat by their tent Jan. 20 at the grand opening of Chick-fil-A on Race Street. They were among 100 people to receive 52 free chicken sandwich coupons for spending 24 hours in the new franchise's parking lot.

junior Keith Johnson said. "And only six hours early."

Johnson's crew was well-prepared, bringing not only

items such as tents and sleeping bags for subzero weather, but also a TV and an Xbox.

Despite the cold, Chick-

fil-A did what it could to try to make everybody comfortable. It also provided some entertainment to help pass

the time. They played games, had scavenger hunts and even hired a DJ for a few hours that night.

"I think they did as good a job as they could have done," junior Jane Messina said. "They were really nice, and everything went well."

The majority of the campers were not Harding students but locals, some of whom travel around specifically to be at Chick-fil-A openings. Before the end of the day, the campers formed a sort of community.

"It was very surreal," Messina said. "I felt like I was in prison. The one thing we all had in common was that we were in lock-up."

The campers were awarded with 52 coupons the next morning at 6 a.m., one for every week of the year. The coupons are good for a sandwich, fries and a drink at any Chick-fil-A and have no expiration date.

Messina has already used a few of her coupons, including treating family to a free meal. Johnson, however, has other plans.

"I'm hoping to use them for bribery, seeing as how I have power over the people now," Johnson said. "I have free money. It's a win-win."

Breakfast made easy



photo by CALEB RUMMEL | The Bison

Freshmen Koree Ramsey and Zach Ellis enjoy breakfast in Harbin's lobby Saturday, courtesy of the SA's new breakfast-in-bed series.

Annual Burksy's reinvented for March

by WHITNEY
DIXON
student writer

Last year the Campus Activities Board put a fresh spin on an old favorite by creating the Burksy's, a Harding awards show that featured both talent performances and who's-who-style honors. This year, the Burksy's is getting another revamp.

"This year is going to be 10 times more fun; anything you expect out of it, expect more," CAB Director Corey McEntyre said.

Attendees will dress up for the event this year, making it a more "classy evening," McEntyre said. However, the biggest change will be the use of music videos to showcase talent rather than live performances.

Student performers submitted video or audio recordings

of themselves on the Link, and the student body voted on its favorite via texting the text code found on the Link for each performance. Voting closed Feb. 3, and the top four performers will now have the opportunity to create a music video for their song with the help of a student director.

"The people will come to [the student directors] with their ideas and will work with one of the student directors to produce an entirely new music video," senior Tiffany Jones, public relations director of the Link, said.

These videos will make up the talent portion of the Burksy's. The videos will be shown at the Burksy's, and the audience will vote via text for its favorite video. The winner will then get the chance to perform his or her song live.

The concept of music videos

as opposed to live performances began out of necessity to create a "cleaner, better-flowing" show, but it "grew to be a more creative way to show the bands," McEntyre said.

The student directors for the music videos are seniors Chris DellaPace, Alan Pearson, Trent Posey and Collin Yearry.

The equipment, including studios, lighting and cameras, will be provided by the College of Communication.

Talent candidates should be ready for a busy schedule in making their music videos, senior Project Manager Grant Dillion said.

"We have four weeks to get it done. Everything is planned out, and it's a ridiculously tight schedule," Dillion said.

In the long run, though, the process will give the performers something they could not get through just a live performance,

Dillion added.

"[This format] will let the audience see them more close-up. This will be something that lasts. It's something other than just a performance," Dillion said. "You get creative angles, creative storylines."

The production of the music videos will be documented on a Facebook group created for the event, "The Burksy's Filmmakers."

Aside from the talent portion, nominations for awards will be listed and voting will take place on the Link through Feb. 18.

The Burksy's will take place March 5 at 8 p.m. in the Administration Auditorium and will be hosted by junior Nate White. Tickets go on sale Feb. 15 in the CAB office for \$5 or free with the Pass.

President urges bipartisan cooperation, innovation

by LAUREN
BUCHER
features editor

President Barack Obama delivered his second State of the Union address Tuesday, Jan. 25, urging politicians to rise above partisan bickering and realize the importance of innovation for America's future.

"New laws will only pass with support from Democrats and Republicans," Obama said. "We will move forward together, or not at all — for the challenges we face are bigger than party and bigger than politics."

The speech stressed working across party lines to tackle national issues. Fittingly, Republicans and Democrats were seated together, rather than seated separately by party affiliation — a starkly different arrangement than previous years.

"What comes of this moment will be determined not by whether we can sit together tonight, but whether we can work together tomorrow," Obama said.

The president issued a challenge to renew American innovation with his self-titled plan to "win the future."

"We need to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world," Obama said. "We have to make America the best place on earth to do business. We need to take responsibility for our deficit and reform our government. That's how our people will prosper. That's how we'll win the future."

Obama proposed several ideas to secure America's future, focusing on investments in critical areas. He outlined infrastructure investments, including a high-speed rail, high-speed Internet, restoring roads and bridges and investing

in clean-energy technology and biomedical research.

An explicit goal he set was that by the year 2035, 80 percent of America's electricity will come from clean-energy sources. Another goal mentioned was to become the first country to have 1 million electric vehicles on the road by 2015.

Obama stressed the importance of education and investing in the future to ensure that America has the ability to adapt to a shifting global economy.

Obama also proposed several budget-cutting measures. The first is a five-year freeze

of annual domestic spending. This action would reduce the deficit by more than \$400 billion over the next decade.

"If we make the hard choices now to rein in our deficits, we can make the investments we need to win the future," Obama said. "We shouldn't just give our people a government that's more affordable. We should give them a government that's more competent and more efficient."

Moreover, he proposed cuts in other areas such as defense spending, health-care spending and spending through tax breaks and loopholes. Cuts will

not be limited to domestic spending. He also proposed a simplification of the tax code.

He proposed further reducing health-care costs, including programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

Another suggestion was streamlining government agencies.

"In the coming months, my administration will develop a proposal to merge, consolidate and reorganize the federal government in a way that best serves the goal of a more competitive America," Obama said.

For a full transcript of the speech, visit NPR.com.

Pike: Harding maintenance worker falls in fatal accident on Mabree construction site

CONTINUED FROM
PG. 1A

"We are losing a brother," he said. "He was respected by everybody because he was particular about doing his work right, but he was also a guy they could joke with. There were a lot of practical jokes going on, and he was always in the middle of

that, always one who made things interesting."

One month after the accident, faculty and staff reflect not only on the tragedy of a lost life, but on the reality of what is most important.

"Everyone on campus is aware of Joe's family and just trying to reach out to them as they make this

difficult transition in their lives," Sansom said. "I guess we're all more mindful of how short life can be and just making sure we're living how God wants us to and that we're ready to go when our time comes."

For more information about the memorial plaque efforts, please contact Danny DeRamus at 501-279-4339.

Look for more on... **THE link**

- **Harding Bazaar opens application process**
- **C-Harmony connects churches to interns**
- **Full Q&A with The Band Perry**

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At the Bison, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves.

We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, integrable manner.

If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the Bison staff, please e-mail Sarah Kyle, the editor in chief, at skyle@harding.edu.

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Doom, Gloom and Social Media

sarah kyle



Staff Space

As I put together this week's Bison, I was struck by how serious this issue is. A lot has happened both in our Harding community and in the world since we left this place for the holidays.

Our president has been in office for two years, to the delight of some and to the disappointment of others. Our nation faced tragedy when Jared Lee Loughner opened fire at Rep. Gabrielle Gifford's meet-and-greet in Tucson, Ariz. The Harding community lost a dedicated employee and family member, Joe Pike, in a fatal construction accident. In Egypt, chaos has unfolded as Egyptian citizens fight for a change of leadership against a government that refuses to step down.

Before I go any further, let me ask you a quick question: How did you find out about all of these events?

For most of you, the answer is probably social media. A tweet, a

Facebook status, a blog... you name it. Doom, gloom and news available at the click of a mouse (or smartphone).

Reporters can now find leads and sources on social media sites. Sometimes stories even break on Twitter. Social media can be one of our greatest assets and tools- but are we letting it do all the work for us?

While I appreciate and admire sites like Twitter for making the news available in "140 characters or less," I want to encourage you to use social media not as a news source,

but rather as a starting point for finding out what's going on in your community and world. Use it as a lead to open your eyes to the stories that surround you.

When is the last time you opened a newspaper? If you are reading this, your stats are high. But the Bison aside, when is the last time you read through an entire newspaper? What about the last time you turned on the news and watched an entire broadcast?

So often for me, it has become habit to scroll down the Twitter feed and treat stories like they are little more than a status. If it seems tragic enough, maybe we click on the link and skim the story. Very rarely do we actually give the article a full and evaluative read.

By treating news this way, are we losing our sense of community?

Community is one of the most important things in our world. It

is what makes us human and what connects us all. It is my belief that community is maintained by sharing and learning the stories of those in our world. To achieve this solely through Twitter or Facebook is, well, impossible.

As you read through this week's Bison, let me encourage you to take a moment to actually read the stories. Learn who Joe Pike was and why he mattered to this university. Let the heroic and poignant death of Dorwan Stoddard be more than just a passing thought.

Everybody has a story to tell. The question is whether you will be willing to hear it.

SARAH KYLE serves as the editor-in-chief of the Bison. She may be contacted at skyle@harding.edu.

Bracke Leaks

john michael young



Guest Space

The huge spotlight and impact of the Wiki Leaks release has led to the website's banner being taken up and copycatted on many smaller stages across the globe. On Harding's campus we've seen just such a scenario arise as an anonymous Brackett Library student worker/whistleblower has recently released more than 100 documents to the public. These documents, which include e-mails, faxes, inner office memos, Post-its and library overdue notices with notes and doodles on them, contain a slew of interesting and previously unknown facts about the Brackett. Many of these tidbits contain details our information hub would have presumably preferred to have kept a closed book. Some of the more notable facts gleaned from this release are summarized below.

-Due to being checked out and perpetually put on hold, no C.S. Lewis book has touched an actual Brackett Library shelf for decades.

-Due to their positions' prestige and busy schedules, officers in the SA are granted access to the library all the way until curfew. This time is typically unproductive as their researching and studying usually dissolves into a game of "Sardines."

-The Brackett Library used to be a male residence hall. The only remnants from the 1950 renovation are the small study rooms upstairs which have found a new use after formerly being dorm rooms on the freshman wings.

-The eyes of every portrait hanging in the Brackett are actually cameras for the library's closed circuit TV surveillance system.

-A proposal has been green-lighted to start taking overdue fines out of students' DCB.

-In an effort to keep Brackett Library copy machines as confusing and ineffective as possible, library staff receive no training on using these

machines, which additionally have not updated despite scheduled and budgeted replacements. This is because revenue from copy machine use is the university's third-highest money producer behind parking tickets and change thrown in the lily pond.

-The "B" button on the elevator does not lead to the basement, but to Dr. Burks' office - "Willy Wonka" style.

-All the good books are kept hidden in the back behind the circulation desk. Video games, Blu-ray discs, Dead Sea Scrolls and iPads too.

-After years of stalled construction, the approval for Java City's being added to the library came after an alarming increase in the amount of students using the library as a nap space. Librarians hoped its presence would keep the students awake and alert for their studies - not because of the caffeine, but as a result of the

jarring industrial noises that continually come from the establishment. Plans to add a mobile coffee cart near the padded black chairs on the second floor are already in the works.

-Contrary to popular belief, the door sensors don't pick up on any unauthorized bar codes that pass through it (that kind of technology has yet to be invented), but are actually set off by guilty consciences. While this catches upwards of 90 percent of all library materials that have not been permitted to leave, it also causes the alarm to go off unnecessarily; sometimes even when a library patron might not be carrying anything except for the weight of knowing that they used their last chapel skip that morning.

-The glassed-in books on the second floor can only be used by graduating seniors majoring in Defense Against the Dark Arts... I mean Bible.

A full-scale investigation has been launched to find the source of these leaks. It remains to be seen what the repercussions will be for both the library in regards to this newfound information as well as the currently anonymous whistleblower if he/she were to be caught. Personally, this writer believes that the anonymous library worker should be hailed as a hero and receive his/her fair due: being featured on a READ poster.

*Disclaimer: None of the information or facts in this article are true (except possibly the one about C.S. Lewis books). The Brackett Library is a productive, vibrant place, capital W Wonderful place that has no dirty laundry nor dirty little secrets, no skeletons in the closets or book stacks, no conspiracies, no evil plots and last, but not least, no sinister ulterior motives beyond making studying as fun as humanly possible.

JOHN MICHAEL YOUNG is a guest contributor for the Bison. He may be contacted at jyoung5@harding.edu

A Sincere Look at the Academy Awards

will reno



Guest Space

On Feb. 27 the world will witness the pinnacle of film with the revealing of the Oscar winners for the 83rd Academy Awards. This week I take a look at the nominees and give my opinion of who I think deserves recognition and who deserves to go into the back room at Steve's Video Store, where you have to be at least 18 years old to enter.

Best Costume Design: I was somewhat surprised when I saw "Alice in Wonderland" on this list as I seem to remember a 70-foot naked, underaged female appearing at one point (don't worry, there was a well-placed 60-foot tree). Maybe the judges are viewing that as a postmodern metaphor for the wastefulness of President Bush's spending while in office. Regardless, I'll take "True Grit." If you're unfamiliar with the movie, all you need to know about it is there are some cowboys, a dentist dressed as a bear carrying around a dead guy, and a man who makes only animal noises (not making this up).

Best Visual Effects: This movie I would not give this award to is "True Grit." They had zero space explosions, and the one scene that would qualify for "visual effects" is some awkward green screen shot toward the end of the movie. I don't want to ruin the ending for anyone, so all I'll say is that it was really, really, really bad. My pick for this award would be "Black Swan," even though it didn't technically get nominated for Best Visual Effects. I think the judges will recognize their error as they recall how the movie visually affected them so much that they all wanted throw up.

Best Original Score: Every year

we hear how an animated film about the instruction on training winged beasts never wins Best Original Score. Well, I think this is the year that they end the drought with "How to Train Your Dragon." Honorable mention to "127 Hours" which features more than 100 hours of a man debating aloud if he should cut off his hand or not, which ultimately climaxes to him reading something out of a book about cutting off a body part if it is causing you to sin.

Best Supporting Actress: I don't really like the idea of a supporting actress nominee being born in 1996, so we can immediately throw out Hailee Steinfeld in "True Grit." Well... I was hoping that'd narrow down the list, but seeing as I don't know any of these actresses, I'll recall a Jimmy Allen story. One time Jimmy Allen told the story in chapel of how he saw a pretty lady one day and attempted to kiss her. We all know of Dr. Allen's bad luck because it turned out to be a man with really long hair! While this humorous anecdote (probably not advised by Dr. Claxton) was obviously an amusing story and not a real experience, I am going to make a similar nonsensical joke and pick the Detroit Lions.

Best Supporting Actor: While I do love the idea of anyone getting

recognition over Ben Affleck in a movie (Jeremy Renner played alongside Affleck in "The Town"), let's go with Christian Bale in "The Fighter" because he finally got to play the role he's always portrayed in real life: someone who just yells a lot. In addition to his Allen third-floor-related ways, his acting in "The Fighter" was so good it almost made Mark Wahlberg look like an actor who can play a role besides someone with a Boston accent.

It's amazing that someone can appear in a "Star Wars" movie and not have his or her film career completely wrecked afterward.

Best Actress: When I heard there was a movie about ballerinas, I immediately ran to the movie theaters. After the movie was over I immediately ran into the bathroom sobbing. And for that alone I would award Natalie Portman in "Black Swan" for best actress. On a side note, it's amazing that someone can appear in a "Star Wars" movie and not have his or her film career completely wrecked afterward.

Best Actor: I've never been a big Coen fan, truth be told, but I am a fan of that big old guy in "True Grit." While he's no Paul Haynie,

I do firmly believe that I would pay complete attention to Rooster Cogburn if he were to teach any history class. Or any class at all. I may hit the snooze button once or twice, but with the possibility of a drunk professor wildly shooting in my direction for no reason, I think I'll save up my skips for when there aren't so many depressing holidays around the corner.

Best Director: A lot of people don't know this but the director of "The King's Speech," Tom Hoppus, is actually the father of Blink-182's bass player, Mark Hoppus. So for that reason alone I'm throwing out the possibility of awarding "The King's Speech" with anything more than a pair of Converse or any other apparel that is found at Hot Topic. I'll take "The Social Network's" David Fincher despite the Harding Habit of the Week.

Best Picture: While I'm all for speech impediments, amputations and dark colored birds, it has to be "Toy Story 3." Not only was this the first movie that I cried in since "King Kong," but the "Toy Story" series are the only movies I've walked away from where I didn't want to punch something after hearing Tim Allen's voice. Also, Jesse is kind of cute as far as animated toy cowgirls go.

And that's it! If you can't catch the Oscars on TV just sneak into a club's formal because it'll be a similar set up: dresses, carpet walking and people laughing awkwardly as someone slurs a speech for just a little bit too long.

WILL RENO is a guest contributor for the Bison. He may be contacted at wreno@harding.edu

jess ardrey



Stuff
Harding
Kids Like

Free Stuff

Camper's log: Jan. 19, 2011.
5:15 a.m. We've arrived at Chick-fil-A. It's freezing cold, but the promise of free food for a year warms my soul. Plus, I brought some of those furry boots Harding kids like so much.

We are so ready. The people next to us look totally unprepared. Noobs.

5:16 a.m. Never mind. They have propane.

9:00 a.m. "Good morning to each one of you." That's what everyone else is hearing. Not us. We're in the race for eternal glory.

We've begun making up nicknames for people to keep ourselves entertained. So far there's Searcy, the underage kid who tried to sneak in and is allowed to stay, but will receive no free poultry. Then there's Free Love, the blonde fellow who named himself sovereign overlord of four square, which his followers have started playing.

3:30 p.m. Nothing has happened in hours. This day. Is the longest day. Of all the days.

However, we decided Hairy, Beardo and Red Sweatshirt are in a band.

8:00 p.m. They hired a DJ. They shouldn't have.

12:00 a.m. In the name of sweet, sweet Truett Cathy, stop playing four square already.

5:30 a.m. We've started packing. It'll only take about 15 minutes, whereas it's taken our neighbors (the Village) about an hour.

Take that, Villagers! How do you like your couches now, hmm? How's that king-size air mattress when it won't fit back in the box? Don't forget your precious heaters! Ha!

I can't feel any of my extremities.

6:00 a.m. They gave us T-shirts, paper hats and tiny boxes, which are believed to contain the coupons. The coups. The chicken coups, if you will.

It is also notable that the shirt fits over all four of my layers, as well as my balloonish coat.

I cannot resist the desire to skulk around declaring that I am, indeed, the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man.

7:00 a.m. I'm back in the dorm. I feel weird. After reducing myself down to a normal amount of clothing, I feel so light that it seems I floated up the stairs. It's either dementia, or I'm actually dead. Either way, I'm skipping chapel.

I feel it is necessary to record my observations now. If I wait until I am removed from the situation, it will become greatly romanticized. It might include snow with a chance of Nazis, but there will definitely be a boy named Piggy with poor eyesight and a conch.

But in real life, one thing remains true: We like free stuff. Given. I also present the fact that we will go entirely out of our way to get that free stuff.

Let me spin you a hypothetical situational tapestry. It's Sunday afternoon. You've gone through all your clean clothes. You're out of Febreze and you don't have money for any more Wal-mart undergarments, which kept you going for the past month.

Do you flip cushions for quarters? Or do you drive to Kensett to do laundry at your friend's aunt's house?

Duh. She makes the best Kool-Aid.

Circumstance numero dos: You got out of your 8 o'clock early with time to grab a chicken biscuit before chapel, you lucky dog, you. You also may or may not have downed a gallon of Sunny D when you woke up. Needless to say, you're quite stuffed as you ease into your seat in the Benson.

But wait, what did Copeland say? Muffin chapel?! If only you'd known!

The line is obscenely long. There is no doubt you'll be late to Color Theory. And you're so full...

But you got that muffin, dadgummit.

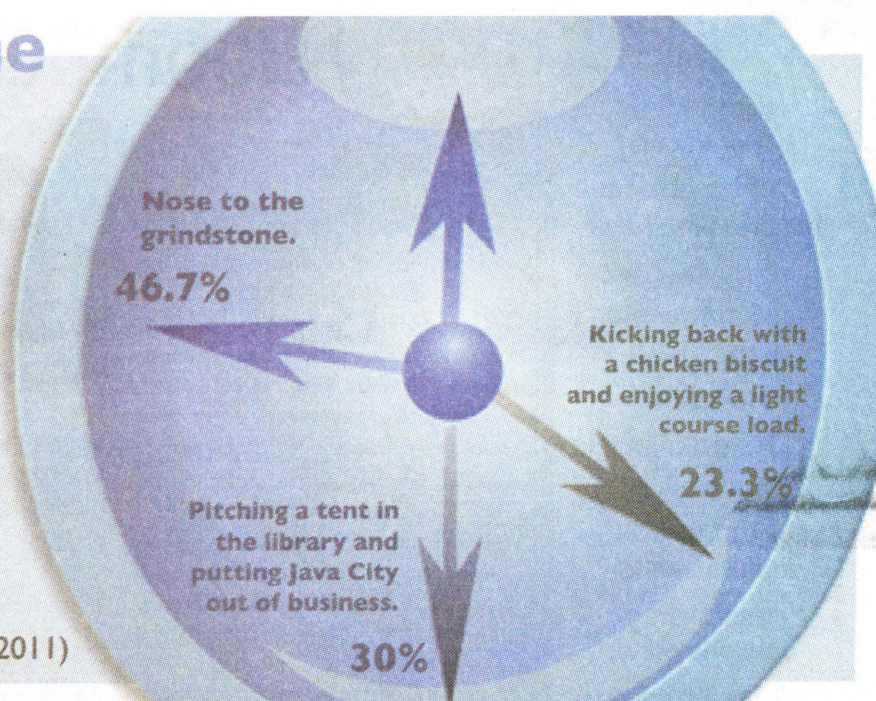
Therefore, I gather that its not so ridiculous to think a Harding kid would camp out in the cold to get her hands on free food.

And so I emerge victorious. And in Chick-fil-A, as the poet hath wrote, "Every time I step up in the building, everybody hands go up."

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Which of the following best describes your study plan for the semester?

Voters: 30 (Stats taken from the Link, Jan. 29, 2011)



"This may be the semester when I have to start putting some of my relationships on the back burner in order to get all my work done. It's not something I'm looking forward to, but I guess that's part of growing up."

[senior] alicia tinkle

A Nutella Way of Life

audrian harville



Guest
Space

It has been almost a year-and-a-half since I returned from my time over-seas. I studied abroad in Italy with the HUF program and it forever changed me. The beautiful scenery, the people, the experiences. It all affects you in a way that you cannot relate to those who have not gone. However, there is one binding force that ties all who have traveled. No, it isn't the people, Robbie and Mona Shackelford, or getting to put an SC by your name. It is Nutella. That delectable spread served every morning, noon and night on the table.

I feel a little history lesson is in order so that everyone can truly appreciate this lovely concoction. Nutella was invented in the 1940s by Mr. Pietro Ferrero in Italy as a cheaper form of chocolate. At the time, cocoa was very expensive, but hazelnuts were not. Ferrero used this cheaper substitute so that the chocolate could be extended. It was originally called "Pasta Gianduja" and was manufactured in loaf form. Traveling over Europe then to the United States in 1983, Nutella is now a world-wide treat.

When I was overseas I feasted

upon Nutella every single day. You ate it on bread, you ate it on every kind of fruit you can imagine. (Kiwi and Nutella is actually quite tasty.) You scavenged it off the table to have in your room for later. It was as if some unspeakable force had overcome you and if you did not partake in some of the hazelnut-and-cocoa delight, you would surely perish.

One of the best things about going somewhere new is discovering all the new food. Now I must confess that before traveling I was a very picky eater. However, I was soon free of the confines of selective munching and embarked on a new journey of discovery. So when I say that this is the best way to eat Nutella, I am speaking the truth. One cold and

It was as if some unspeakable force had overcome you and if you did not partake in some of the hazelnut-and-cocoa delight, you would surely perish.

dreary evening, a few of us hiked down the hill to go to a carnival in Scandicci. Everyone knows that fair food is the best eats you can find, and this also applies in foreign countries. We found a vendor selling Nutella and banana crepes. They were melt-in-your-mouth good and made it worth the 16 percent grade incline we had to endure to get back home later that night.

When I first learned that I would be traveling to Italy, everyone I talked to told me how there was no peanut butter. How

you needed to take a jar because this was a great, cheap food that you could take along during your two-week trek of eating only bread. I diligently bought a jar and packed it away, knowing that although it weighed two pounds, it would be worth it when I had a little piece of home with me. The seal was never pulled away from the lid of that jar. Not only did I not use my jar of PB, I completely forgot about its existence. The night before free travel, when we all were packing bags and saying goodbye, I discovered my old friend. I considered taking him on free travel for all of about 10 seconds. I then proceeded to promptly toss him into the box headed for America, making way for my new love and traveling companion. So do not worry Jif and Peter Pan lovers, you will not miss your go-to bread spread. A new nutty sauce is in town, and it means to do business.

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A Speller's Journey

michael claxton



Guest
Space

The fact that I was an official in the White County Spelling Bee last Friday is one of the great ironies of my life. To explain why, I'll have to take you back to 1983. I was in the sixth grade at Conyers Middle School, and the time had come for the annual spelling contest. Each homeroom had a competition to select its champion speller, who would go on to the school-wide bee. From there, it was possible to go to the district, then to the state and finally all the way to national glory. For those who dream big, that is.

And my homeroom teacher Mrs. Myers did not dream small. She knew how well I had done on all my weekly spelling tests that year, and she smelled a winner. I was not typical champion material: I had no athletic talent, no hand-eye coordination and had somehow managed to get through six grades of school without combing my hair. But I could spell. And each week during vocabulary lessons, when we had to use our newly learned words in a sentence, Mrs. Myers let me read my silly creations to the class. So you can blame her for the fact that I became a humor columnist.

Anyway, I could tell that she was mentally dusting off shelf-space for my trophy. But there was a problem. I did not want to participate in the spelling bee. I knew that champion spellers had to memorize long lists of words, had to study French roots and Latin prefixes, and most likely would be asked to comb their hair. I feared that all of this work would interfere with my busy adolescent schedule of watching the "Muppets" and rearranging my "Star Wars" action figures.

So when Mrs. Myers started calling out the words for us to write down, I had the sinking feeling that my spelling prowess would doom me to hours and hours of work, not to mention the nerve-wracking experience of spelling in front of an audience. Had I known that, years later, a kid would pass out on national television during the Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, I would not have been surprised. I had to find a way out of all this.

I knew that champion spellers had to memorize long lists of words, had to study French roots and Latin prefixes and most likely would be asked to comb their hair. I feared that all of this work would interfere with my busy adolescent schedule of watching the "Muppets" and rearranging my "Star Wars" action figures.

A boy's gotta do what a boy's gotta do. So I cheated: in reverse. I sabotaged my test and purposefully misspelled half a dozen words. But I was slick about it. I had to make these mistakes look accidental, so I relied on all of my orthographic savvy. So skillfully did I transpose my vowels, so casually did I insert silent H's, and so craftily did I take advantage of homonyms, that the result was, I must say, a work of masterfully feigned incompetence. The fraudulent answers I handed in were, I thought, undetectable.

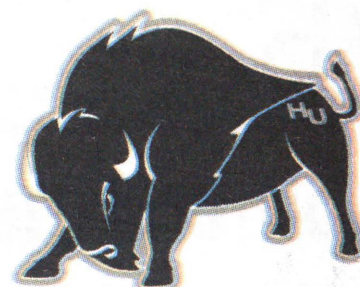
I still got caught. And worse than that,

I was sent to the principal's office. There I got in trouble for not doing my best. It was embarrassing. I don't know if you remember being a boy in the sixth grade. Half of you probably don't. But if a guy has to go to the principal's office, he wants to go out in a blaze of glory, after starting a food fight or whipping a bully or something. Do you know how lame it is for a sixth-grade male to get sent to the office for not doing his best? My street cred was never the same after that.

Fast-forward 20 years. I graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Ph.D. in English, which, if you ask me, confers a pretty solid verdict on my spelling chops. Later that year I come to Harding, where I am placed in charge of several English composition classes and asked to salvage the spelling of America's future leaders. And then, only a few short years later, I am called upon to be a Pronouncer in the White County Spelling Bee ... quite possibly the single highest spelling-related position a person can attain, short of editing the Oxford English Dictionary. If only Mrs. Myers could see me now.

While last week's bee was only slightly less dramatic than the epic 2010 Searcy showdown between two seventh graders that lasted an incredible 44 rounds, it was still a hard-fought contest between several outstanding young spellers. These students had obviously spent long hours preparing and had made sacrifices of time and energy to master an old-fashioned skill that most people lazily rely on computers to correct. Their discipline, poise and confidence were impressive and inspiring. And even though I stood in the spotlight like Alex Trebek - looking smart with the answers right in front of me - these kids actually did what I never had the nerve to do at their age. They refused to hide their talents in the sand, and to them I say B-R-A-V-O.

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j.m. adkison



While
Warming the
Bench

Ballad of the Bench Warmer

They say that life is not a spectator sport.

And I say, thank goodness for that, because I would be awful at tryouts.

I always dreaded tryouts. I'll never forget the first time I went out for the lacrosse team in middle school, during the end of February in Columbus, Ohio, when there was still snow on the ground and we had to share a smelly gym with the girls' lacrosse team.

I wanted to play lacrosse because it was the new sport in town and that meant everyone was bad at it. I'll never forget having to run 50 laps around the gym, while the girls' team sat in a circle playing get-to-know-you games.

Naturally.
My mother would not let me quit; she said I would not spend my spring playing "Pokemon Snap." I had to get out and learn how to be a part of a team.

And so I continued lacrosse that year, which consisted of clumsy practices, education in obscenities (which I never participated in, but was quite knowledgeable of) and keeping the bench warm for my superiors.

I eventually moved to New England, where I discovered the beauty of junior varsity.

I loved lacrosse, but I was the sort that caved in under pressure. In J.V., the school wasn't staring down your back and you could have fun with the games. But all good things must come to an end, and it was compulsory for seniors to play on the varsity team. And so I found myself at tryouts once more, under the coercion of my parents. I thought tryouts were pointless since I was on the team anyway and the coach knew full well I was no starter.

And so I saw the return of my title as Bench Warmer Extraordinaire, feeling more like a spectator than sport-player.

But I do not say all of this for you to pity me (OK, maybe I do a little bit). I say this because being a bench warmer is awful. Even on the varsity team, I wanted to be out there, slashing my defense pole around like Gandalf going up against the Balrog. I wanted the epic emotion that comes with beautifully executed plays and miraculous shots.

So isn't it great that life is not a spectator sport, that life does not have tryouts? Life drafts you the moment you get yanked out screaming. Life, like sports, takes determination and a positive attitude. You have state-championship-winning seasons and you have not-so-great seasons.

Regardless of skills and all-stardom, you play the game. And if you keep going strong when the final buzzer sounds, the prize at the end is much better than a plastic trophy.

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HU Basketball defeats Henderson State

by AERIAL
WHITING
asst. copy editor

The 20th-ranked Harding men's basketball team won its Jan. 29 home game against Henderson State University 79-69, as did the women's basketball team with a score of 83-74, which marked the 100th victory of Lady Bison Head Coach Tim Kirby's career.

As of the Saturday game, halfway through the Gulf South Conference, the Bisons were 16-3 overall and 6-1 in conference play; the Lady Bisons were 14-5 overall and 5-2 in conference play.

For the second half of the GSC, they will play the same schools in the same order; however, if the games were away in the first half, they will be home in the second half, and vice versa.

Rather than dwelling on his personal victory, Kirby gave the glory of his 100th win to the Lady Bisons. He earlier praised his team for its athletic ability in general.

"It's all the girls; it's their win," Kirby said. "Not only

do we have good basketball players, we have a bunch of good girls that like playing with each other but have fun playing the game."

The team's win is a "confidence booster" for the Lady Bisons, Kirby said.

Senior guard Bailey St. Clair said she felt the women's team opened the game with "a lot of energy," and junior guard Sierra Rollins also said she liked the team's strong beginning.

"I like the way we started; we came out with a bang," Rollins said. "I mean, we started out 11 and 'O'. We came out. We set the tone."

Henderson State is strong and fast, and the team put great pressure on the Lady Bisons during the whole game, according to Kirby. However, the Lady Bisons maintained a lead over Henderson State throughout the match.

"We were ready to play," St. Clair said. "The crowd was great, and we played like we should, as a team and together."

Likewise, the men's team plays well together, Bison Head Coach Jeff Morgan said. He attributed the Bisons' success

up to this point to the players' "great chemistry."

Morgan said it is the players who set this season apart.

"It's an unbelievable group of guys to coach," Morgan said. "They do their job in the classroom. On and off the floor, it's a great group of guys ... They just love each other, and that's what makes it fun."

Finishing out the first half of the remaining six games of the conference, three will be repeats away and against difficult teams: Delta State University, University of Arkansas-Monticello and Henderson State, Morgan said.

Even with what appears to be a challenging final stretch, senior guard Stephen Blake said he is optimistic about the rest of the conference.

"We're in a good position, 6-1 in conference," Blake said. "I think we've put ourselves in a good situation."

For the next game, the women's and men's teams will face Southern Arkansas University at home on Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively.



photo by Caleb Rummel | The Bison
In her game against Henderson State on Saturday, Jan. 29, senior guard Bailey St. Clair looks for an open shot. Both men's and women's teams will play Henderson again in Arkadelphia, Ark., Feb. 26.

Women's soccer, a 'hat trick' of awards

by HEIDI TABOR
student writer

The Lady Bison soccer team scored a hat trick this season when, for the first time in Harding history, three members of the team were selected for All-South Region honors.

Senior midfielder Hayley Withrow and freshman forward Adriana Lucar received second-team honors and junior forward Paola Eusse received third-team honors. The All-South Region honors award has been given twice before to Lady Bison soccer players, Kendyl Washburn in 2007 and Minnie Guzman in 2006. This is the first time in Harding's history that multiple players have received the award in a year.

"The fact that three girls were recognized really shows the kind of dedication that our team displayed this year," Withrow said. "Paola and Adriana are fantastic players and constantly amazed me with their abilities. I think every scouting report against us had them pegged as the two people to watch out for. I'm proud to even be considered

to be on their level."

Withrow, from Garland, Texas, served as captain of the team alongside fellow senior Shayna Nail. She contributed two assists versus Lambuth and a goal scored against Delta State.

Against West Georgia, Lucar scored her first career hat trick, which is when a single player makes three goals in a row, and sealed the Lady Bisons' victory by scoring all

three of Harding's goals.

Eusse, of Dover, Pa., scored seven goals, including a hat trick against Belhaven.

The girls were selected for the honor by a board of coaches from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and were later presented with certificates.

"It was such a surprise because I had no idea that I was even being considered for it," Withrow said.



photo courtesy of Harding Sports Information
Freshman forward Adriana Lucar scored her first career hat trick against West Georgia, which led to a 3-2 victory.

"It's the biggest compliment to know that there were other coaches who thought you deserved to be ranked as something."

As a senior and captain, Withrow accepted an entirely new list of responsibilities for her final season on the Lady Bison soccer team.

"Coach sat us down last spring and told us what he wanted from us as captains and I didn't know if I was going to be able to live up to his high expectations," Withrow said. "In the end you just try to perform to the best of your abilities, with your whole heart, and keep your team motivated to do the same."

Through her leadership role, Withrow said she was able to help set expectations and develop a team that was able to compete with some of the best teams in their conference.

"I couldn't be more proud of how we played and the heart that was shown by everyone," Withrow said. "I know that it was an intimidating situation for all of the new girls to have so many expectations to live up to, but many of the girls stepped up where we needed them and I'm excited to see how they take control of their new team next semester."

Super Bowl XLV ready to rumble

Greenbay Packers, Pittsburg Steelers to clash in the biggest football game of the year

by KATIE SWANN
student writer

It's bowl time, and everyone is taking sides. The championship games are over and the contestants have been named: the Pittsburgh Steelers for the AFC and the Green Bay Packers for the NFC. Now one question remains: Who will be named the No. 1 team of the season?

President Barack Obama weighed in on the matter shortly before the NFC championship game between the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers. He said of his hometown team, "If the Bears win, I'm going, no doubt."

Surely the morale and location of the Bears vs. Packers championship game in Chicago would raise their beloved Bears to victory.

However, the Packers' ability to deliver pass after pass kept them a touchdown ahead to the very end.

Following the Green Bay victory, Packers' corner Charles Woodson said of the president's statement, "The president don't want to come watch us at the Super Bowl — guess what? We're going to see him." Woodson was referencing the Super Bowl champion trip to the White House. Perhaps he spoke too soon. Green Bay must face a wall of steel, before they can book the plane to Washington.

Both teams have had quite a remarkable season; the Packers seeded sixth in the playoffs, hit their stride and rode it to the top while the Steelers have shown a consistently solid game and skill level that has boosted them to No. 1 in the AFC. Both the Packers and the Steelers have shown an

exceptional defensive game and have nearly unstoppable quarterbacks, but critics are giving Green Bay the edge. Why?

"America wants Green Bay to win the Super Bowl," said bleacherreport.com correspondent Joey Hnath. "The Steelers will be hard pressed to slow down the momentum Green Bay has gained during their playoff run."

Hnath is referring to the Packers' ability to seemingly take on any challenge despite a rough start to the season, a maneuver that they have managed time and again all the way to the championship. Not to mention, the Packers have not tasted the Super Bowl in 12 years and haven't won since '97. They want it and they're going for the win.

In contrast, the Steelers have a legacy to maintain. The team has lost only one

**The president
don't want to
watch us at the
Super Bowl—
guess what?
We're going to
see him.**

**-Charles
Woodson,
Packers'
Cornerback**

of the seven Bowls they've attended, two of which Big Ben Roethlisberger has led them through as quarterback. Third time's the charm, right?

On top of everything, this win would make the Steelers the first team in NFL history to have won seven Super Bowls. This is an opportunity the franchise can't afford to

lose. Statistics favor the team as well, displaying them as first in the league in points per game, yards per play, rushing yards per game, yards per rush, yards per pass attempt, sacks and so on; whereas Green Bay ranked well below Pittsburgh in several of these areas.

"America got the Super Bowl matchup it wanted," Hnath said.

As sports columnist John Romano of the St. Petersburg Times said in his column on Sunday, Jan. 25, "This one is for the romantics. If you consider scabs, contusions and trauma to be romantic. And this one is for the purists. This is the Super Bowl the NFL finally deserves. It's got tradition."

It is a game that's sure to "pack" the stadium, but who will come out a champion? Be sure to find out on FOX Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. for Super Bowl XLV.

Golf teams receive new indoor, hi-tech facility

by J. M. ADKISON
sports editor

It is not a sport you can play just anywhere. After all, you are swinging a metal club and hitting white, little balls as far as you can. The conditions also have to be just right: dry weather, daylight and a wide-open area with meticulously mowed grass with small holes.

This has always presented a problem for college golfers who want to work on their swings and putts as often as they can. Fortunately for Harding's golf teams, they no longer have to wait for a ride to the country club. Now all they have to do is carry their clubs to the Ganus Athletic Center.

This semester, the GAC opened a new indoor facility built exclusively for golf players. This golf facility now takes up one-third of the gymnastics room, small for what you might expect for an indoor golfing facility, but efficient. The floor is covered in an artificial grass and pocketed by several holes, perfect for players wanting to enhance their putting skills.

"This has been an idea I have had since I became a coach three years ago," men's

golf coach Dustin Howell said.

Howell and junior golfer Bruce McMullen said the facility was primarily funded by tournaments, gifts from alumni and "straight-up saving from the team budget."

"I knew this facility was going to become a reality last summer in 2010," Howell said. "Construction began last fall, and it was finished over [winter] break. I designed the layout of the room and it was installed by Southwest Green in Dallas."

Howell said that his favorite aspect of this new facility was that players could practice any day regardless of weather conditions or daylight.

"As a student, I do not have a car or time to make it to the golf course," McMullen said. "So now I can come in here whenever I need to and a huge benefit is that I can still practice after 7 o'clock at night, using the launch monitor to see results."

The launch monitor is one of the high-tech features the facility offers to players practicing to improve their swing. As demonstrated by junior golfer Evelyn Poteet, a player simply needs to stand in front of the monitor mounted on the wall, swing his or her club next to a long, blue box on the ground and hit the ball against a large, white mat on the wall. Immediately, the



photo by JON YODER | The Bison

Junior golfer Evelyn Poteet exhibits how to use the golf facility's high-tech computer, the launch monitor, as her golf ball hits the white mat.

launch monitor gives measurements and statistics on how far the ball would have gone, how hard the player swung and what the ball's spin was.

"I believe our facility gives our team several advantages over other teams in our conference," men's golf team captain, sophomore Blake Chase, said. "Few schools have such a facility in Division II golf. Also I believe that the facility will help the team get rid of the off season 'rust,' and allow us to make quicker progress toward our

goals this spring."

Both the men's and women's teams use the facility for practice, and the players can now practice on their own techniques daily.

"[Coach Howell] did an amazing job of fundraising and making his dream a reality," women's golf team's graduate assistant, Brandi Watkins, said. "And I know that it is hard work, and I know all of the players appreciate it. And this means there are many more great things to come for the golfing team."

Who will win the Super Bowl?

Ronnie Huckaba



Guest
Space

In the spring of 1965 during a family meeting, my dad informed us that we were leaving our Georgia home and moving to Irving, Texas. In my 9-year-old mind, I envisioned horses, stagecoaches and Roy Rogers escorting us into town. I never saw Roy Rogers, but I did become enamored with the Cowboys — the Dallas Cowboys that is. In 1965 Dallas was beginning to move into the upper echelons of the NFL, mentioned in the same breath with the Green Bay Packers and the then-Baltimore Colts.

In 1966 I sat in the car before church started on a late fall Sunday evening and listened as Dave Robinson pressured Don Meredith into an ill-advised pass from the Green Bay 2-yard-line that was intercepted by Tom Brown, sealing an NFL championship for the Packers. Yes, the same Packers of Vince Lombardi that would dominate the first two Super Bowls. I watched every play of the infamous "Ice Bowl" in 1967, sneaking out to cry in solitude when Bart Starr scored on a quarterback sneak with seconds left to again send the Pack to the Super Bowl and the Cowboys back to Texas to commiserate with their fans on the what-ifs of that game.

Nine years later, in 1976, my teammates on the Harding College Bison football team and I rented a room at the Noble Motel so we could watch the Super Bowl game between the Cowboys and the hated Pittsburgh Steelers.

**"Prediction:
Steelers 24,
Packers 14"**

-Ronnie
Huckaba
Bison football
head coach

We had an even mixture of Cowboy fans and Cowboy haters and enjoyed a great game that, unfortunately for me, ended with another disappointing Cowboy defeat. Leading in to Super Bowl XLV, it is easy to see why it gives me a great deal of pain to say that I believe the winner will be the team I consider to be the best in the NFL at the present time: the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Steelers should win the game for these reasons:

1) They have a dominant running game with arguably the best offensive line in the NFL. This allows them to dictate tempo and dominate time of possession.

2) Their defense is tremendously talented, loaded with speed and playmakers who show up in big games over and over again. Additionally, they have a fantastic defensive coordinator in Dick LeBeau, a veteran coach who has consistently had the Steelers ranked near the top of the NFL for his entire tenure with the team. He is considered by many to be the best defensive coordinator in the history of the NFL.

3) Ben Roethlisberger. Even though he has made some field choices that cause us to shake our head in disgust, he has a penchant for playing his best in the biggest games. His size, speed and arm give him an advantage over most NFL quarterbacks. Prediction: Steelers 24, Packers 14.

Blake, Rollins recognized by GSC

by STACY HALL
student wrtier

The Gulf South Conference awards two athletes every week, one male and one female. Basketball players Sierra Rollins and Stephen Blake were both recognized in the same week on Jan. 19.

A junior from Angleton, Texas, Rollins is a second-time award winner of the GSC athlete of the week. She said the recognition does not feel any different from the first time she received it. Except this time is a little bit sweeter, Rollins said, because the team got two more victories to their name this year, whereas last year they split the games. Rollins said the team has great dynamics this year and all have the same goal.

"I think we will have a very good

It just shows that the hard work that goes on in this program is paying off and other programs are starting to notice.

-Sierra Rollins
junior guard

season," Rollins said. "We have done very well until this point and I don't expect us to fold anytime soon."

The Harding men's basketball team is ranked No. 3 in the first NCAA Division II South Region Rankings according to the NCAA.

Blake, a senior from Greenbrier, Ark., is a first-time receiver of the

GSC athlete of the week, but he is very humble about the award. Blake said he is more concerned about the team and their success rather than praising himself.

"I was proud to receive that recognition, but really it doesn't mean anything," Blake said. "There are more important things we are trying to do as a team."

Having the two recipients of the GSC award in the same week is very flattering for Harding University and especially its athletics. It's doubly great recognition to the school, and hopefully they will continue to have many other athletes of the week.

"I think it's really cool that Harding players got recognized in the same week," Rollins said. "It just shows that the hard work that goes on in this program is paying off and other programs are starting to notice."

CHAMPION'S CORNER: Taylor Lively

by J. M. ADKISON
sports editor

When he was in junior high, the last thing Taylor Lively wanted to do was run cross country. But he made his mother a promise: If he did not make the eighth grade basketball team, he would run for the cross country team. And he just knew he would make the basketball team, after all, it was only junior high. The possibility did not even cross his mind, at least until he saw the results from basketball tryouts and did not see his name on the list. Keeping his promise, Lively was forced to run cross country his eighth grade year.

And who would have thought running would save his life?

As a child, Lively grew up active and in a constant state of motion, but he was also sick often. Doctors could never figure out what was wrong.

"I had one doctor tell me to suck it up and stop faking everything," Lively said.

Fast-forward a few years and Lively is running at the regional track meet his junior year of high school. Before this meet, he had finished every race he ran, no matter how sick he got or how bad he felt. This time, however, he fell to the side, blue in the face and dry heaving. It was after this event Lively decided to see a pulmonologist, a lung doctor.

It was a cold, icy day in Decatur, Ala., when Lively finally found out what was ailing him. It was the nationals meet, and he had enough on his mind without his coach acting strange.

"My coach kept telling me over and over again, 'No matter what, you're my hero. Don't forget that, you'll always be my hero,'" Lively said. "And I was like, 'What are you talking about? I need you to help me focus for this race.'"

So Lively began running the race, doing well in the start, but getting slower and slower as other runners began to pass him by. The whole time, his coach kept yelling, "No matter what, you'll still be my hero." "And I was like, 'That is not what I need right now,'" Lively said.

Lively finished third in the race, and as he left the track, he found his coach and his parents waiting for him.

Then his father asked him the question that changed his life, "Do you know what Cystic Fibrosis is?"

Cystic Fibrosis is a hereditary disease that causes mucus to build up and destroy the lungs. There is no cure, and those who have it have a very short life expectancy, Lively said.

"I went to go see the doctor after that and he told me, 'If you weren't a runner you would be in critical



Photo courtesy of Harding Sports Information
Freshman Taylor Lively, from Lake Dallas, Texas, runs both cross country and track

condition or dead," Lively said. "Basically, running had saved my life by keeping my lungs healthy and undamaged. While normally my life expectancy would be 40, the doctor said that I would live well into my 60s if I kept running."

Presently, Lively is running for the Harding Bisons, in both cross country and track.

"For the following six months I was really mad at having this disease," Lively said. "But as I got older and matured a little, I realized this was a blessing. I've gotten e-mails and Facebook messages from places as far as Idaho who heard about my story and told me what an inspiration I was to them as runners."

During high school, his story was covered by NBC, and over the past winter break, it was covered by CBS.

"I know it really is not me doing this but God," Lively said. "This is my story, my life. I would tell others who are going through this to look for the blessing, always look for the positive, look for the good in every bad situation."

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Spiritual quest ends in icy waters of McInteer fountain

Bruce McMullen continues with baptism plans despite chilly January weather

by KYLIE AKINS
news editor

With more than 150 people huddled around him, junior Bruce McMullen stepped down into the icy water of the McInteer fountain. The snow that fell earlier in the day, lining the edge of the fountain, failed to postpone the ceremony. With the temperature hovering at freezing, the water was far from comfortable. But that day, Thursday, Jan. 20, was the day McMullen, a golf player and Sub T-16 president, was to be baptized, and nothing was getting in his way.

McMullen's journey began in his hometown of Cape Town, South Africa, where he decided to seek an education better than the one he would receive at the local university. With golf skills to offer, he contacted recruiters in the U.S. in search of a scholarship that would take him overseas. Harding's first-year men's golf coach, Dustin Howell, responded to McMullen, and without much understanding of what "religious" meant in the context of a university, McMullen began his first semester in the fall of 2008 with two bags and a golf scholarship.

"Harding was nothing like what I was expecting at all," McMullen said. "I didn't want anything to do with the pressures in terms of Christianity."

After a difficult freshman year, McMullen considered transferring, but as inexplicable as he said his choice was to attend Harding, his firm decision to stay was even harder to describe. It was during his sophomore year that he was assigned a project in Life of Christ in which he



photo by JEFF MONTGOMERY | Harding University
Junior Bruce McMullen emerges from the McInteer fountain's snowy water after his baptism to a warm reception from a crowd of more than 150 of his friends Thursday, Jan. 20.

Sure, it was cold; I'm not going to lie. But the reason that I was there was bigger than me just being cold.

**-Bruce McMullen
Sub T-16 president**

was required to interview 10 of his Christian friends.

"You could put a thread through all of the answers," McMullen said. "I thought, 'There's something real here.'"

After this experience, McMullen began an intense search for answers, studying and talking with peers, professors and preachers, during which three words changed him.

"When I started asking questions, a lot of the time people said to me, 'Hey, I don't even know, and that's the point. We study together

and talk about it,'" McMullen said. "I think the phrase 'I don't know' changed my life. It made me feel exactly like everyone else here."

This past summer when he returned to South Africa, a country with a diverse mix of Islam, Hinduism and Christianity, he found himself changed. Upon returning to school, he pored over questions and studied with his friends. By Christmas break, he was devoting much of his time to reading and watching religious videos. On the plane ride back

to Searcy three weeks ago, he realized he wanted to be baptized.

The McInteer fountain had special meaning to McMullen, as Harding held the people who changed him.

"I felt like what Harding has done for me and Harding people have done for me, I wouldn't want to do it anywhere else," McMullen said. "Now, whenever I walk past it and whenever I visit Harding again, I can walk past there and just close my eyes and just picture everyone that was around there

supporting me and let the whole ceremony go through my head. That's awesome. I can walk past there every day and experience that and get that feeling."

After his baptism, an onslaught of e-mails filled McMullen's inbox from people from all over the world who had read his story on Facebook and were encouraged.

"Receiving all those e-mails just reassured me that it's the best thing that I have done," McMullen said. "The Christian family is not just what I might

share with a few friends here or about Harding, but it's bigger than that and we can all affect and change people's lives."

Howell said he enjoyed being able to watch and participate in McMullen's intense search and finally see it come to fruition.

"He's been searching for a while," Howell said. "I could not be happier with his decision."

With the assistance of Little Rock preacher Stuart Cash of Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, McMullen was submerged into the frigid water during a short break in the snowy weather and rose to see his friends surrounding him.

"I felt very supported with all the people there that meant so much to me," McMullen said. "Sure, it was cold; I'm not going to lie. But the reason that I was there was bigger than me just being cold."

Coen brothers' 'True Grit' trumps John Wayne original

by LANE COMEAUX
student writer

The Coen brothers' "True Grit" is a remarkable film, and very different from the four-decade-old original, in which John Wayne portrayed the mean Marshal Rooster Cogburn as a hero with a few rough edges. Jeff Bridges Cogburn is the classic anti-hero, a lovable rough guy who has a few heroic qualities. Bridges is convincing and envelops himself in the role throughout, and Matt Damon, as uppity Texas Ranger LaBoeuf, is more than up to par.

However, it is 14-year-old Hailee Steinfeld as Mattie Ross, trying her hand at her first big-screen role, who steals the show. She portrays her character as vengeful and hard-nosed, but still a child. Funny and charming, Ross is the focus of the movie throughout, as she and the Ranger and Marshal saddle up to chase down a band of killers.

Jeff Bridges Cogburn is the classic anti-hero ... and envelops himself in the role throughout, and Matt Damon, as uppity Texas Ranger LaBoeuf, is more than up to par.

The Coens decided to base their remake more on the book, written by Arkansas native Charles Portis, instead of the original movie. (In the 2010 version of "True Grit," Ross is in almost every scene and her voice-overs add a sense of intimacy and insight.)

Compelling scenes of Ross facing down an unethical horse trader and charging across a roaring river atop a horse are quite memorable. Steinfeld obtained the part of Ross through a nationwide casting that saw nearly 6,000 actresses audition.

Her recent Academy Award nomination is made more amazing by the fact that Steinfeld is a relatively inexperienced actress, with her previous work coming through small roles on

television and a few commercials.

Many in and around the film industry were concerned about Steinfeld's ability to share the screen with a well-known, extremely talented cast, but those fears were laid to rest in the opening scenes.

I wholeheartedly recommend seeing this movie, regardless of whether you are traditionally a fan of the Western genre or the Coen brothers' previous films. "True Grit," as evidenced by the 10 Academy Award nominations it has received in the last week, is perhaps the best film of the year.

Witty dialogue, superb acting, twists and turns in the plot and excellent commentary on human nature make this film worth your money.

January winter brings joy

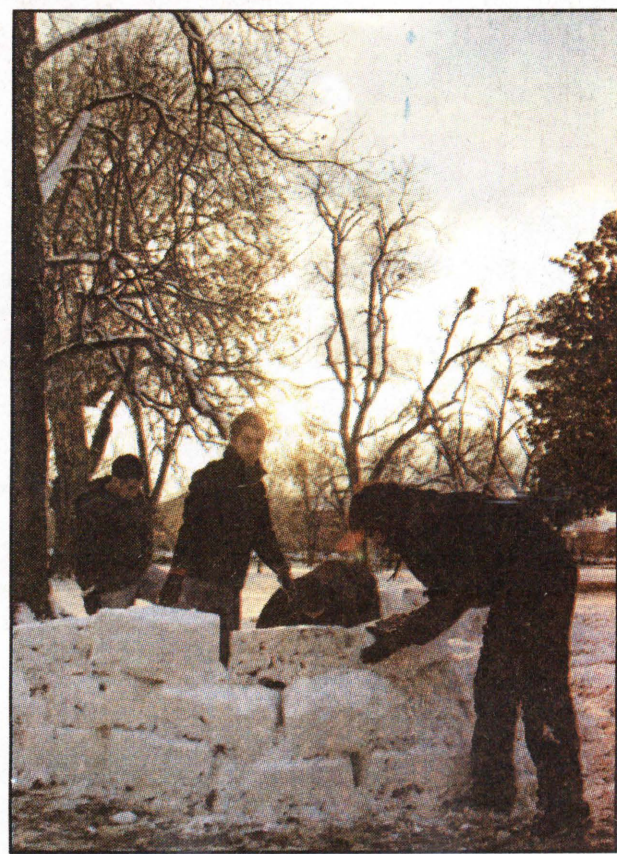


photo by JON YODER | The Bison
Students brave the cold to build a snow fort on the lawn between Harbin and the Ganus Athletic Center Thursday, Jan. 20.

Junior theater students take reigns, direct one-act plays

by AERIAL WHITING
asst. copy editor

Six student-directed one-act plays, ranging from the ridiculous to the chilling, will be performed between Feb. 10 and 26 in the Ulrey Performing Arts Center.

The first pair of plays, "The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter" and "A Marriage Has Been Arranged," will show Feb. 10-12. "The Ransom of Red Chief" and "World without Memory" will show Feb. 17-19; "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will show Feb. 24-26.

All theater majors are required to direct a one-act during their junior year.

Associate Professor of Theatre Britton Lynn, who is in charge of overseeing the plays this year, said the "raw material," the scripts, the students are working with is quite strong; among this year's series of plays are a 15-member cast ("The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter"), which is unusually large for a one-act, and a student-written adaptation of a short story for the stage ("The Ransom of Red Chief").

The directors are in charge of every aspect of their plays: They cast their plays in the fall and have since filled out paperwork, led rehearsals and organized costuming, set design and props. The directors are also in charge of budgeting for their plays; if necessary, they may take out a loan from Campus Players, a campus organization

that supports the theatre field, to finance their shows. If their shows do not earn enough to cover the cost of the loan, they are held accountable for the remaining amount.

Lynn said the rationale behind the directing project is that it is in directing that all aspects of theatrical production converge, allowing students to see from the various viewpoints of those involved in mounting a play.

"We [the theater department] want the students to be well rounded in everything so that when the students that come in saying they want to be performers that are professional performers, we say, 'That's great. That's wonderful. We want you to do that. You need to know who it is you're working with so that

when you get out in the real world, you understand what their perspective is,'" Lynn said.

Rather than giving the directors free rein to determine which one-act they will direct, the theater department has the students choose several scripts they would be interested in. The professors then choose for the students from among the proposals to make sure the plays complement each other.

For example, the professors paired "The Fall of the House of Usher," based on the short story by Edgar Allen Poe, with "The Hound of the Baskervilles," based on the Sherlock Holmes novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, even though those were not the first choices of the directors of those plays, junior Marcus Bellamy and senior Cassie

Bennett, respectively.

Even though they were not assigned their first choice of plays, Bellamy and Bennett each said they have enjoyed directing them. Bennett said she likes being a director more than she thought she would and that rehearsals are the highlight of her day.

"Every day that I have a rehearsal planned, I'm so excited to get to rehearsal because I know that that's where I'm going to have a good time, that's where I can relax, that's where I'm going to laugh," Bennett said.

While Bennett's and Bellamy's plays will end the series of one-acts with horror and mystery, "The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter," will begin the series in mirth. The comedy, directed by senior

Logan Kays, is a play about a play that goes horribly awry.

Kays said she learned of "The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter" when she wrote a story about it for her high school newspaper. She said she has had a positive experience directing the play and said the project has made her consider directing as a career.

"I've learned a lot about myself, about other people, about working with other people and personalities, ... it has made me consider wanting to do this," Kays said.

Kays, Bennett and Bellamy all said they were excited to present their shows to the public.

Tickets will be sold in the Ulrey Performing Arts Center the days of the performances. They are \$5 or free with the Pass.

YOURS TRULY

Dear girl who lives above me,

Please find another time to practice for your upcoming high heel marathon.

Yours truly,
Not a morning person

Want to submit your own "Yours Truly"? Use the format above to submit your own complaint, commentary or joke about something that happens in your life! Send submissions to skyle@harding.edu.

SUDOKU

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CONTEST: Win a free Sudoku book by being the first person to bring the completed puzzle to the Bison office TODAY (Friday)

DEAR DENNIS

Dear Dennis,

I am graduating in May and am STILL single. Since I do not want several thousand dollars of dating, I mean tuition, fees to go down the drain, how would you suggest I go about finding that special someone? I have tried sitting on swings with random guys, but it just has not worked yet. Have any tips?

Sincerely, Sleepless in Searcy

Dear Sleepless,

Stop, please. I don't care if you are already expecting a witty and sarcastic response to your hopeless delusion for a man. I'm tired of the topic, even in jest. Anyway, here's your real problem: You're not an actual person. You are Silly Putty.

You are the type of person who will stretch to fit whatever kind of shape a potential suitor is, but you're still an odd color. Good for you if you can become a bouncy ball, but the second you rebound from the kitchen floor you're covered in hair and no one likes you. Go home, read your "Twilight Saga" ("saga," yeah right. Try out some Lord of the Rings before you use that word so loosely), insert yourself into the empty, nondescript shell that is Bella whats-her-face and mope.

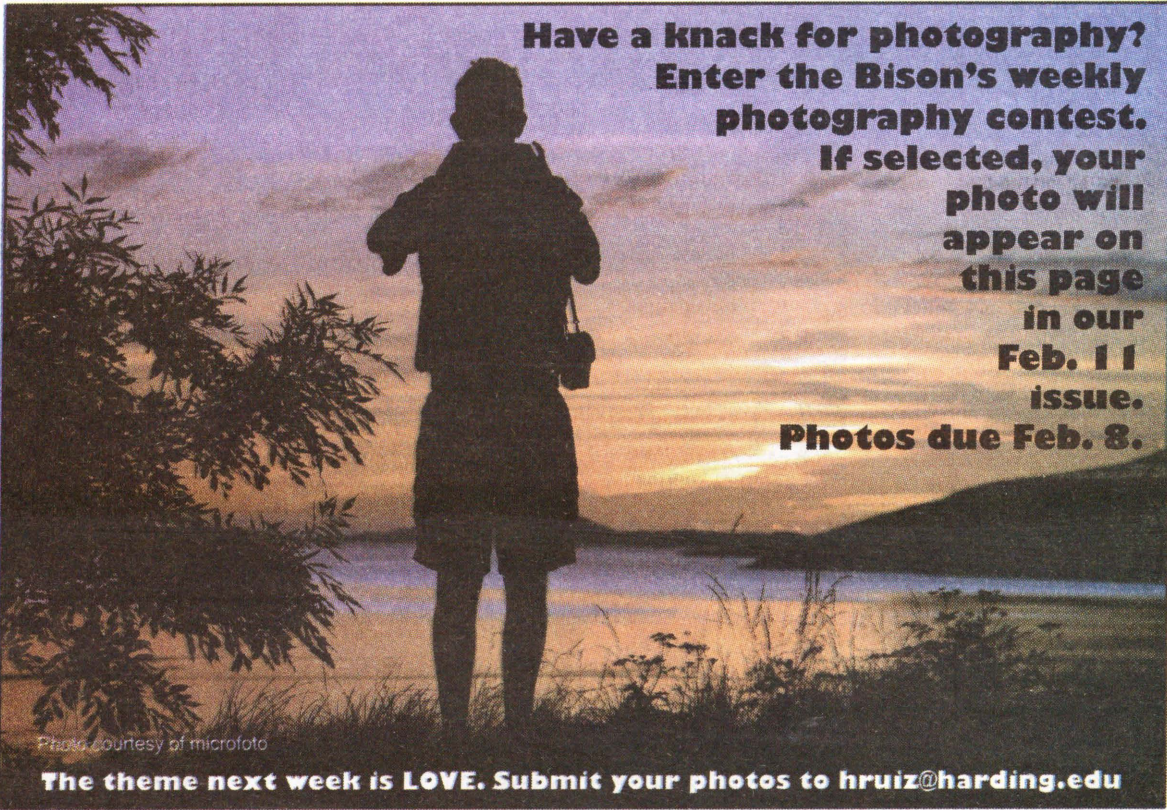
But seriously, if you want to get a man, follow these simple instructions:

- Watch a lot of chick flicks. These paint an accurate picture of how love works so you can learn a lot from them.
- On that strand, don't settle for anything less than a Mr. Darcy of a man. Let every prospect know of your super-high standards so he has something to compare himself to.
- Agree to be in every wedding party you can because the phrase "always a bridesmaid, never a bride" will win over all the guys. If you don't believe me, watch "27 Dresses" and then refer back to my first point.

Sincerely,

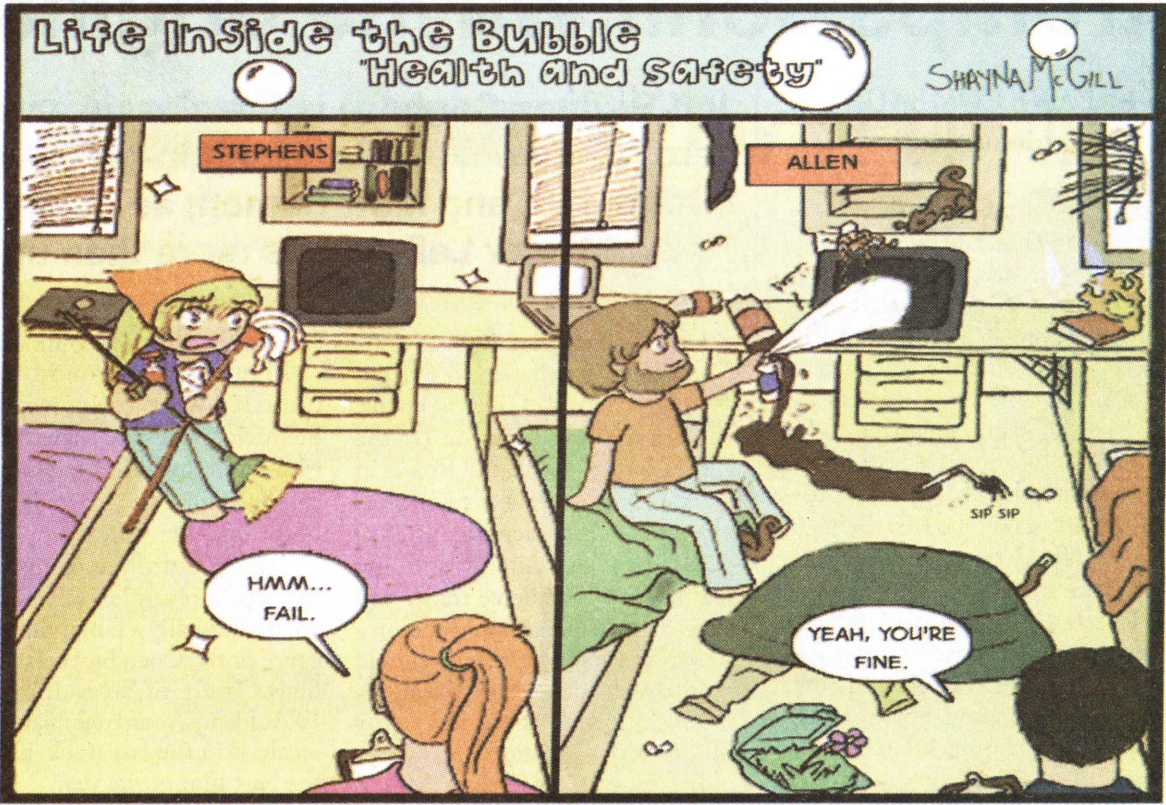
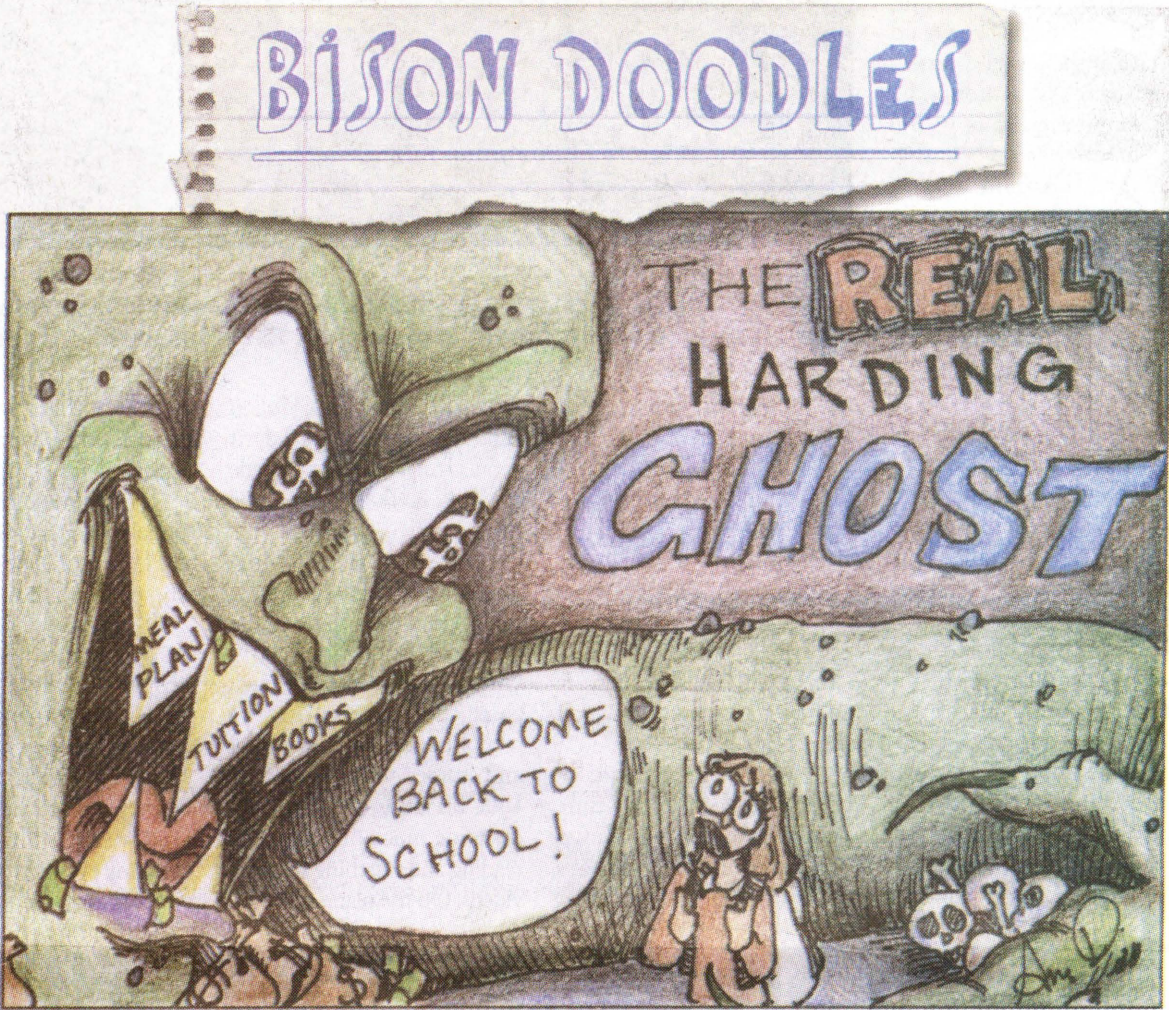
Dennis


Submit your own question to "Dear Dennis" at skyle@harding.edu. Warning: Most responses will be humorous and sarcastic. For real advice, seek your local counselor or best friend.



Have a knack for photography? Enter the Bison's weekly photography contest. If selected, your photo will appear on this page in our Feb. 11 issue. Photos due Feb. 8.

The theme next week is LOVE. Submit your photos to hruiz@harding.edu





THE ANSWERS ARE IN! BISON WEB EDITOR TIFFANY R. JONES TOOK YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE BAND PERRY. FOR THE FULL Q&A, VISIT THELINK.HARDING.EDU. THE BAND PERRY IS PLAYING IN THE BENSON AUDITORIUM AT 8 PM. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT HARDINGCABTICKETS.COM.

Q: Do you have a good luck item?

The Band Perry: We have this ritual before every show where we all get in a circle, and I have no idea where this started, you know, most people put their hands in the middle, but actually make sort of a gun with our hands and we put them all in the center and we shoot 'em off and we blow the smoke out of the barrel.

Q: What prompted you to model your music video for "If I Die Young" after Tennyson's poetry?

TBP: One thing we really wanted in the video for 'If I Die Young' was a sense of hope ... Make the most of your minute whether you've got two years on the planet, 20 or 200, live to the fullest. We wanted that sense of hope to come out in the video and that's why we use a lot of spring colors. That's why Kimberly hops out of the boat, 'cause it is called 'IF I Die Young'.

Q: A life that is short-lived is a sensitive topic, but not something that is uncommon. What responses have you received from fans? Any personal connections to those who have suffered loss in this way?

TBP: One of the most amazing experiences that we've had with 'IFYD' is when we play it live. There's one or two people in the crowd who are a little teary-eyed and they've probably lost someone and they're going through a tough time, but for the most part people are smiling as they are singing the song.

Q: What is it like performing, writing music, being on the road, etc., with your siblings? Has this made you closer as a family?

TBP: We can sum it up in one sentence. We know each other like the back of our hands, and some times we have to use the back of our hands and we're still together at the end of the day. That's what sums up The Band Perry.